News Release

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Love your pets this Valentine's Day

License them to get them home safely

Edmonton, February 14, 2008 – This year, give your pet the ultimate Valentine's Day present – a safe ticket home - with a City of Edmonton licence.

Last year alone Animal Services received almost 5,000 lost cats and 3,500 lost dogs. "If they don't have a licence, they're less likely to be reunited with their owners," says David Leeb, Director of Animal Services.

Every animal that comes into Animal Services gets a medical check, then a licence check. "They get food and water, a warm place to rest and the kind attention of our staff," says Leeb. "If the animal has an up-to-date licence, we can deliver him right to the family; without a licence it becomes much more difficult."

About 60 per cent of the dogs received are licensed, but only about 10 per cent of the cats. "For some reason cat owners don't seem to see the value of a licence, and this means many of them don't get home," says Leeb. For spayed or neutered cats or dogs a licence costs $14 or $28 respectively. If your pet is not spayed or neutered, the cost is $64.

Animals without a licence or other identification are held for 3 days. If they are not claimed they are assessed for adoptability and given to agencies in the hopes of finding new homes. "The sad reality is that unidentified animals are less likely to get back home," Leeb adds, "which is why we encourage people to license their pets - it is the best way to get them home safe and sound."

To license your pet simply go online to http://permits.edmonton.ca or come in person to 5th floor 10250 -101 Street, or to Animal Services at 12515 - 128 Street, Edmonton.

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About Edmonton:

This is a city alive with energy and boundless opportunity - a growing economic powerhouse where business thrives and more than a million lives enjoy the freedom to explore, experiment, experience, excel and expect the most out of every day. A place like no other, Edmonton is filled with surprises great and small and a calendar packed with artistic, sporting, theatrical and cultural celebration.

For more information on Edmonton, please visit our website at: www.edmonton.ca.

For additional information, contact:

David Leeb
Director of Animal Services
780-496-8880